



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,
and Third Tuesday of each month

County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California 93517

REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 2007

9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Hazard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Bauer

The Board acknowledged victims of September 11, 2001, and their families.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Reid reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Last Wednesday met with County administrators regarding IMAAA and the future of IMAAA; they discussed strategies. Also met with the Twin Lakes homeowners at Memorial Hall; talked about a comprehensive defensible-space program.
2. On Thursday attended the Antelope Valley RPAC. They discussed the High Point curve correction project with Caltrans; Reid asked the community to give Caltrans a lot of input. Also, two people from the Forest Service talked about fuels reduction at Wolf Creek and Mill Canyon.
3. Yesterday attended the LTC meeting in Mammoth. Received an update on Eastern Sierra Transit Authority; John Wentworth gave a presentation about the trail system project; adopted a resolution regarding the allocations of the bus shelter grant; talked about County representation on the committee; and received an update about projects in Mono County.
4. Coleville post office improvements should be completed soon.
5. Gasex update: The contractor is on board after a seven-week delay due to the lack of a performance bond; the company should start work this week.
6. Met with the IMAAA governing board yesterday. Reid talked about the County's displeasure with the way IMAAA has conducted business at the Walker Senior Center; talked about the need for an outside audit (not certain that Mono County is getting its fair share of the allocation); and talked about the need for strategic planning. Two people from Walker/Coleville are on the interview panel for the site coordinator. Betty Potterville and a representative from Mono and Inyo Counties are going to meet to try and resolve some of the problems. Reid voted against the 2007-08 budget in order to make a point that IMAAA needs to change the way it does business.

7. Attended a session on walkable communities in Antelope Valley. Reid has been asked to serve on a committee; he said he will be an ex officio member. They also talked about fishing issues; apparently there has been a halt on fish stocking.

Supervisor Hunt reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Helped at the fall century bike rally; it was a great chance to communicate with various people in the community.

Supervisor Bauer reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Wednesday attended the second round of June Mountain visioning; it was successful. The community is involved, and Bauer thought some of the June Lake Advocates' issues were addressed. They are talking about creating a summer retreat/science/learning area, and wilderness experience.
2. Attended the AOC meeting on Wednesday night. This was an uncomfortable situation because the AOC does not think it needs to meet local and CEQA standards.
3. Attended the first ESTA subcommittee meeting; talked about the advantages of having an executive director.
4. Attended the High School football game in Whittier; the team lost.
5. Met with Senator Cox about the AOC issue, the elections issue, and the Verizon issue; delivered letters about the fire truck issue in North County. Was unable to meet with Berryhill; left a list of concerns and letters with staff.
6. Attended the climate change working group for CSAC; had a good policy discussion. There are two prongs: the general plan and individual plans/projects. Government people only want to discuss the general plan; Bauer will try to create a friendly relationship with the AG's office so they are receptive to Mono County's needs. The asphalt color is being addressed; 90% of the issues are easy to resolve. Landfills without gas recovery will be targeted. Discussed federal lands and how this plays into the issue. Need information from Great Basin about 1990 levels because this will be the benchmark. There will be quite a bit of direction coming out of the discussion.

Supervisor Farnetti reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the LTC meeting: Regarding Mammoth Trails, the Town has funded \$100,000, Mammoth Mountain has funded \$100,000, a developer has funded \$25,000, and the County as proposed \$12,500. The afternoon route from Mammoth to June Lake was cut due to poor ridership; there is a need for a route from Convict Lake to Mammoth Lakes. Potential funding should go to ESTA to look at the county-wide system. Received an update on YARTS. There has been a 60% increase in ridership; it increased 45% in August. Caltrans has an approved budget from the State; there is a 21% increase in capital funding for projects. The Black Rock project was awarded, and grading should start in the next couple of months. Received a report on safe routes school funding; the State is providing \$54 million and the Federal Government is providing \$46 million. There needs to be a policy discussion about the roles of LTC and ESTA.

Chairman Hazard reported on the following issues and activities:

1. On the 5th had a site visit with Great Basin Air Pollution Control District in Crowley Lake; two people had expressed concern about excessive wood smoke in the winter months. Great Basin identified a site for monitoring. Hazard sees this as an enforcement issue not a pollution issue. Great Basin has a mandate to test communities; Hazard asked for a schedule of testing so devices can be placed appropriately.

2. On the 6th visited Mojave to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new four-lane project; it was a nice ceremony. The project south of the overpass to the new on-ramp for the highway is still being worked on. Many people commented about the positive change.
3. On the 7th held office hours in Benton. There has not been representation for senior services in Benton for three to four months. A senior program was opened on Friday—one person showed up. Many of the seniors need in-home support and not the food services; need to do targeted case management.
4. Regarding the IMAAA meeting yesterday, there is either a lack of concern or lack of understanding about issues in Mono County. Also, a comment was made about developing a web page, even at the expense of services. People in Benton need real help and not a web page. Regarding the IMAAA committee to resolve issues, Hazard thought this process wouldn't solve the problems.
5. Attended the LTC meeting; issues were discussed above by other Board members.
6. Regarding the Big Horn Sheep issue, the comment period will be extended for 30 days. There is a tentative schedule to conduct a workshop in Bridgeport in Memorial Hall on October 10.
7. Congressman McKeon's staff will be in Mammoth tomorrow in the morning, and will be in Bridgeport in the afternoon.
8. Regarding Verizon, Inyo County, BLM and the USGS will provide letters of support requesting assistance in resolving the problems.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (**David Wilbrecht**)
ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

David Wilbrecht, CAO, reported on the following issues and activities:

1. No report was given.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Mary Booher reported on the following:

1. Yesterday the Legislature approved AB8. Several county organizations sent letters opposing added costs to the counties. The Governor will veto AB8 because it doesn't cover enough people.

Sheriff Scholl reported on the following:

1. Last week has been hectic because of the Steve Fossett search. They are using a lot of technology to try and locate him. This is an on-going effort and many agencies are involved. Neither Inyo nor Mono Counties has a Civil Air Patrol plane assigned to the area; the Sheriff is working to change this.
2. Regarding transporting bodies across state lines, the policy will be implemented by the end of the week; they will issue a press release. The person has to die within 50 miles of the state line, and be transported no more than 20 miles across the state line to a mortuary; the County falls within the parameters of the law.

Stacey Simon reported on the following:

1. Updated the Board about the federal recreation land designation issues. She has spoken to staff assigned to federal land issues in Feinstein's, Boxer's, and McKeon's offices. All three are interested in more information and are willing to attend a Board meeting; she is considering scheduling them for October 16.

Brian Muir reported on the following:

1. The outside audit firm is currently gathering information.
2. The proposed budget reflecting the Board's decisions is available for public comment. The Board will get a hard copy with their agenda packet for the next meeting.
3. Muir had no report on the property tax issue, but he is continuing to work on it. He wants to make sure actions comply before moving forward.
4. He spoke with Olga at CSA 2; their concern is about changes in property ownership. He will work with CSA 2 to answer questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Staff requested to pull item #2 for further discussion.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- 2) Resolution Designating Trustees for Assets within the County's 401(a) Plan
R07-62 ACTION: Adopt **Resolution R07-62** designating Investors Bank and Trust Company as Trustee for assets contributed to the County's 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan through Hartford Life Insurance Company and designating Mid-Atlantic Trust Company as Trustee for assets contributed to the County's 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan through FTJ FundChoice LLC.
(Farnetti/Hunt, 5-0)

Stacey Simon distributed a revised version of the resolution. Documents submitted by the providers refer to the establishment of a trust and appointment of a trustee. Valic and Hartford are annuity contracts, and do not require the establishment of a trust or appointment of a trustee; the County needs to designate a trustee for FTJ. The revised resolution designates a trustee for FTJ only.

SHERIFF-CORONER

- 3) Resolution Authorizing Current Mono County Sheriff or Current OES Coordinator to Apply for and Administer OES Emergency Management Performance Grants
R07-63 ACTION: Adopt **Resolution R07-63** authorizing current Mono County Sheriff or current OES Coordinator to apply for and administrate OES Emergency Management Performance Grants.
(Reid/Hunt, 5-0)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 4) Resolution in Recognition and Support of California Arts Day, October 5, 2007
M07-221 **ACTION:** Approve a resolution declaring that the County of Mono recognizes and supports the mission of the California Arts Council to advance California through the Arts and Creativity by declaring October 5, 2007, California Arts Day.
(Reid/Hunt, 5-0)

REGULAR AGENDA

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- 5) Emergency Medical Services Fund (Maddy Fund) Policy Revision Approval (**Mary Booher**)
R07-64 **ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-64** increasing the Penalty Assessment by \$2.00 for each \$10 of fine per SB 1773, with the additional revenue going to the Emergency Medical Services Fund (Maddy Fund).
(Reid/Bauer, 5-0)

Mary Booher said local boards have been given the authority to increase the penalty assessment. The funds will be added to the Maddy Funds already administered by Health and Human Services; 15% will go to pediatric care. The other funds can be used to pay claims for children. This provision will sunset in January 2009 unless the Legislature extends it.

SHERIFF-CORONER

- 6) Public Safety Officer Attendance at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's 174th Basic Peace Officer Academy (**Richard C. Scholl**)
M07-222 **ACTION:** Approve and authorize Public Safety Officer Magdaleno Hernandez's attendance at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's 174th Basic Peace Officer Academy, October 22, 2007, through April 25, 2008, for the cost of \$11,000.
(Farnetti/Reid, 5-0)

Sheriff Scholl introduced Magdaleno Hernandez, who has been working for the department for some time. Hernandez will go through the training so he can be placed in the field; he is committed to serving the County. Supervisor Reid said this is a great program. The Board wished Hernandez good luck. Chairman Hazard asked how many employees are with the County five years after completing the training. The answer is 75% stay with the County; this is a very successful program.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- 7) Staff Report on Disaster Preparedness: Evacuation Centers, Red Cross Shelters, Motel and Restaurant Partners (**Ed Zylman and Kathy Watkins**)

ACTION: (1) Receive verbal staff report regarding progress on agreements with shelter sites, motels and food providers required in the opening and running of county evacuation shelters and emergency Red Cross shelters. (2) Provide any desired direction to staff.

Ed Zylman introduced Kathy Watkins, who was promoted last year to a staff service analyst. One of her assignments was to establish Red Cross shelters across the County; she has done a remarkable job. Watkins said there are shelter agreements and trained workers in place throughout the County. She distributed an article from the Mammoth Times (on file in the Clerk's Office). The program needs more supplies throughout the County, such as cots and blankets. She will be organizing first-aid training so each shelter manager will be trained in CPR and first aid; the goal is to provide this training to shelter workers and employees who do home visits. Other goals include having an automated defibrillator at each shelter, and another shelter site available in the Walker/Coleville area on the east side of the valley. She has put together a disaster team to assist with single-family events, such as home fires; also, contracts are in place to provide food and shelter for several days. This program was used on August 31st to help a family in Bridgeport who experienced a fire in their home.

Zylman said \$20,000 has been put in the budget under general assistance to purchase equipment. Trailers will be used to store the supplies so they are mobile; the Sheriff's Department has offered a 20-foot storage container in Benton. Watkins said on October 30 there will be a shelter management class in Lee Vining so people can learn how to open and set-up a shelter. She is working on agreements with restaurants in June Lake to provide food in emergency situations, and the Salvation Army from Bishop will provide a cantina in emergency situations.

Break from 10:50 a.m. through 11:00 a.m.; reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 8) Verbal Update and Status Report by the Assessor on his Office and Activities (**James Lovett**)

ACTION: (1) Receive a verbal report from the Assessor regarding the status of his office and activities. (2) Provide any desired direction to staff.

Jim Lovett reported on the following:

- Lovett addressed a number of questions that were asked last week. Regarding a delay in processing a subdivision map, he said the parcel map was recorded on June 28, the Assessor's Office received it on July 10, the owner was given the proposed number, and the map was completed on August 20. There was not a 90 day delay as was suggested. Regarding the question from the water department about slow assessments, it was a special assessment and the property owner was anxious about the amount of tax (the auditor determines the amount of the tax to be charged).

- Regarding Mammoth Mountain, Lovett distributed a copy of an email outlining the most recent contact with Chris Hansen; in the email Hansen explains that obtaining the information is difficult. Lovett said he would visit the site with Mr. Hansen to lend County support. If the owners don't provide the information, the only option is to go to court and impose a fine. Only the property owner can allow for an on-site inspection. Lovett and Hansen will visit the property and make their best assessment. The contract with Hansen can be changed by mutual agreement; Hansen is agreeable to extending the contract for a year at the same cost.

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said his office can assist if asked by the Assessor's office. Also regarding legal remedies, County Counsel can't proceed unless requested by the Assessor. Supervisor Farnetti said it seems the Assessor has not made the issue with Mammoth Mountain a priority. Supervisor Hunt said the Board's priority is obvious; they want action on this issue. Hunt said the County is counting on the Assessor to take action to resolve this matter; he asked for a specific plan of action from the Assessor. Lovett said he will ask Hansen to conduct a physical inspection; Lovett also said he will be happy to meet with County Counsel to consider legal options. County Counsel and the Assessor scheduled a meeting for 1:00 p.m. today in the Assessor's Office. Rudolph said outside counsel, Brett Price, will be the best person to write the letter since this is his area of expertise.

Supervisor Hunt asked about the backlog. Lovett said a lot of the backlog is for Mammoth Mountain properties. Previously the backlog included over 2,000 parcels; now they have only 500 and his office is working to clear them up. He has enough technical support to handle the work, but he really needs the office manager and doesn't know why it is taking so long to fill the position.

Supervisor Hunt asked for a list of accomplishments and goals for the FY 07-08 budget year. Lovett said his goal is to produce an accurate assessment role. Hunt said the Board needs details as to how the Assessor's office will accomplish this goal. Lovett said he will put the goals and accomplishments in writing for the Board.

Supervisor Hunt then asked about the following:

Q: Does Lovett belong to the California Assessor's Association? A: Yes

Q: The Association utilizes a professional ethics guide, part of which is a code of ethics and standards of professional conduct. How does Lovett's minimal work schedule demonstrate a commitment to excellence? How does his performance demonstrate stewardship of resources?

A: Lovett said this is a modern era with email and voice mail; he comes in on Monday and works a three-day week. Lovett said he holds training sessions with staff and they turn over a timely and accurate assessment role. Chairman Hazard asked if the staff training is documented so they get credit. Lovett said no, but the exercise questions are in his computer files. Hazard asked for more details about the training sessions. Lovett said in the last three months he held one training session on the income approach to value; in the last six months he has held four sessions. He presents a series of five questions and the appraisers are given three or four days to work on them. Lovett then meets with the appraisers and they work through the solutions for about an hour. Lovett said it takes him about an hour and a half to prepare the topics. Over the last six months the ongoing training has taken about 6-10 hours to prepare and conduct; right now he is preparing an exercise on possessory interest because the County has been doing it wrong.

Q: Does Lovett belong to any Association committees?

A: No because he has only been the Assessor for over a year and it takes time to be appointed to committees. Lovett is planning to attend a conference during the week of October 16; he has been summoned by the Board of Equalization to attend the meeting and it may be on a Board day. Chairman Hazard asked Lovett to supply a copy of the summons.

Q: Can Lovett cite specific improvements he has made in the organization over the last three months?

A: Lovett said he wants to purchase hand-held laser devices that appraisers use in the field, and he is planning to provide each appraiser with a laptop computer.

Q: What is Lovett's regular relationship with the Finance Department as far as sharing information?

A: Lovett said he believes they have a good relationship. For a while the Assessor, Auditor, and Tax Collector were holding periodic meetings.

Supervisor Hunt asked Brian Muir, Finance Director, if he feels he is getting information in a timely manner from Lovett. Muir said the roll has come out in a timely manner, and within the limitations of the system, it is relatively accurate. Muir expressed concern about the long-term situation in the Assessor's Office; there will be a big problem if experienced people leave. Muir said he has a problem with public perception about the County, and would appreciate the Assessor working five days a week.

Supervisor Reid asked if the summons from the State Board of Equalization is an invitation or a legal summons. Lovett said once a year the State Board of Equalization summons all 58 assessors to attend a conference; all other conferences are invitational. Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said it is provided for in the Revenue and Taxation code to summons assessors, and they have to attend.

Supervisor Reid asked about the status of the CNL appeal. Lovett said he talked with Ms. Andersen (representing CNL) about a week ago and they still believe the value is \$16 million; the Assessor believes the value is \$18 million. The appeal hearing is scheduled for September 20-21, and Lovett said he will handle it in conjunction with Brett Price.

Regarding recruitment in the Assessor's Office, Robert Garret (Human Resources) said they have been working to put together an extensive exam process; with the Assessor's sporadic work schedule. Garret and Teresa Neely have spent a lot of energy to ensure the appropriate certification process.

A question was raised about mandatory audits; Lovett said currently he is the only person qualified to do them, but wants to hire an auditor who can perform this function. Chairman Hazard asked Lovett to provide information about how many mandatory audits need to be done at this time.

Chairman Hazard asked Lovett if he has talked with any fellow elected officials in Mono County about his work schedule, excluding Board Members. Lovett said he talked with the Sheriff, who did not voice any opinion about Lovett working more. Supervisor Reid said the assessor position has been clearly identified in the past as being full time (5 days a week).

ADJOURNED: 12:20 p.m.

Prior to adjourning, Chairman Hazard said the County has been declared a disaster area due to drought; George Milovich is aware of this.

Supervisor Reid said he will be late for the Board meeting on Tuesday due to surgery on Monday the 17th. Supervisor Bauer said she will be attending the Sierra Leadership Conference next week.

Mono County Board of Supervisors next regular session will be on **September 18, 2007**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

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